

Message Text

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PAGE 01 REYKJA 00821 171630Z
ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EURE-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05
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FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7383

C O N F I D E N T I A L REYKJAVIK 0821

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, IC US, NATO
SUBJECT: NATO AND IDF PRESENCE ICELAND --PRIME MINISTER'S
COMMENTS

1. AT NATIONAL DAY RECEPTION TODAY I MENTIONED
TO PRIME MINISTER HALLGRIMSSON THAT I WOULD BE RETURNING TO WASH-
INGTON JUNE 20 FOR CONSULTATIONS PRELIMINARY TO
FOREGIN MINISTER AGUSTSSON'S SCHEDULED MEETING WITH
SECRETARY JUNE 27. I ASKED WHETHER PM HAD ANY
PARTICULAR MESSAGE HE WISHED ME CARRY BACK.

2. PRIME MINISTER STATED THAT FOREIGN MINISTER WOULD WISH
EXPLORE WHETHER THERE WAS ANYTHING USG COULD DO TO ASSIST
GOI IN EFFECTING SEPARATION CIVILIAN AND MILITARY
TERMINAL FACILITIES AT NATO BASE. (HE IS, OF COURSE,
WELL AWARE OF WHAT WE HAD ALREADY COMMITTED OURSELVES
TO D IN MOU OF 1974). WHEN I ASKED HIM WHETHER HE
STILL FELT, AS HE HAD TOLD VICE PRESIDENT IN JANUARY,
THAT SEPARATION OF FACILITIES WOULD BE IMPORTANT ELEMENT
IN NATIONAL ELECTIONS SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 1978-,
PARTICULARLY FOR INDEPENDENCE PARTY, HE REPLIED STRONGLY
IN AFFIRMATIVE. HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT HE PERSONALLY
FAVORED DEBATE IN NATIONAL ELECTIONS ON NATO AND
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CONTINUING IDF PRESENCE HERE. THE MORE ICELANDERS KNOW
OF IMPORTANCE OF BOTH TO COUNTRY THE BETTER.
AT SAME TIMEN HE ADDED, HE HAD NO DOUBT THAT LEFTIST
OPPOSITION WOULD TARGET US MILITARY PRESENCE HERE
AS UNNECESSARY AND UNDESIRABLE. THUS,
WHATEVER HE COULD POINT TO AS OFFSET TO THESE ATTACKS
WOULD OBVIOUSLY BE TO OUR AS WELL AS HIS ADVANTAGE.

HE SAID HE WOULD WANT TO TALK MORE TOME ON THIS
SUBJECT AFTER MY RETURN.
BLAKE

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NNN

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